

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107355
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 SP-02 NSCE-00
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 L-01 PM-03 SSO-00 INRE-00
/044 R

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APPROVED BY AF/S: DON PETTERSON
-----064170 270156Z /73

O R 270117Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107355

LIMDIS - CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PLANNING NEXT STEPS WITH THE BRITISH

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE ASKED UK MINISTER
ROBINSON TO VISIT DEPARTMENT AFTERNOON APRIL 26 TO
OUTLINE ISSUES WHICH WE BELIEVE US AND UK SHOULD DIS-
CUSS IN PLANNING NEXT STEPS ON RHODESIA. MOOSE SUGGESTED
THAT PERHAPS JOHNNIE GRAHAM COULD EXTEND HIS STAY IN
WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK AND THAT SCHEDULED BILATERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 107355

TALKS ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, OTHER THAN SOUTHERN AFRICA,
BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS OF RHODESIAN STRATEGY.

2. MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT AGENDA ITEMS FOR US/UK DISCUSSIONS
COULD BE THE FOLLOWING:

A. COORDINATION OF US-UK VISITS/REPRESENTATION IN

SALISBURY: OWEN HAD INDICATED TO SECRETARY VANCE THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO STATION A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN SALISBURY TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE INTERNAL PARTIES. SECRETARY VANCE HAD NOTED THAT WE WOULD NOT OBJECT. THE US IS CONSIDERING HAVING PERSONNEL FROM OUR EMBASSY IN PRETORIA VISIT SALISBURY PERIODICALLY,

IN ADDITION TO WHATEVER VISITS AMBASSADOR LOW MIGHT MAKE IN THE FUTURE. WE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS WITH HMG UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS PEOPLE WILL GO IN AND WHEN. MOOSE NOTED THAT SOME SORT OF FAVORABLE STATEMENT ABOUT WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING (NOTWITHSTANDING THE APRIL 25 STATEMENT) MIGHT BE A PREREQUISITE FOR VISITS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

B. SUBSTANCE OF OUR MESSAGE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH (A) ABOVE WOULD BE DISCUSSION OF WHAT WE WOULD WANT TO SAY TO THE SALISBURY GROUP TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MOVE TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING. MOOSE SAID THAT EVENTS COULD IN TIME CONVINCE SALISBURY OF THE ADVANTAGES OF OUR PLAN, BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE PASSIVE IN THE MEANTIME. ROBINSON SAID THAT HIS READING OF RECENT ANALYSES OF THE SITUATION WOULD LEAD HIM AND PROFESSIONALS IN LONDON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SALISBURY GROUP MIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 107355

BE QUITE CONFIDENT IN THEIR POSITION, GIVEN THE APPARENT DISARRAY WITHIN BOTH ZAPU AND ZANU. MOOSE NOTED THAT THERE WERE OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN SALISBURY AGAINST THE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH MIGHT BE HARBINGERS OF TOUGHER TIMES TO COME FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

C. HOW TO APPROACH THE PF: MOOSE REMARKED THAT WE MUST ALSO ENGAGE IN CONSIDERABLE HANDHOLDING WITH THE PF AND THE FRONT LINE STATES AND, IN THIS REGARD, WE MUST DECIDE WHETHER OUR CONTACTS WITH THE PF WILL BE CAST AS EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER OR TO SIMPLY EXCHANGE VIEWS. MOOSE POINTED OUT THAT WE WILL INEVITABLY BE CONFRONTED WITH THE PF'S INITIAL QUESTION OF WHETHER WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO BINDING ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID THAT WE WOULD MAINTAIN THE POSITION WE HELD AT DAR, BUT THAT WE SHOULD CONCERT OUR RESPONSE BEFORE TALKING WITH THE PF.

D. AGENDA OF ANGLO-AMERICAN-PF DISCUSSIONS: ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF CONVERSATION WITH THE PF, MOOSE SUGGESTED THAT WE AND THE BRITISH ASSESS THE BENEFITS

OR LIABILITIES OF DISCUSSING WITH THE PF (1) SUGGESTIONS
TO MEET THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE POLICE (DR. OWEN
AND SECRETARY VANCE AGREED DURING THEIR BREAKFAST
IN LONDON THAT WE SHOULD MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION);
(2) COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
(PERHAPS TO PRESS FOR AGREEMENT ON THE POWERS OF

THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER OVER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION AS WELL AS OTHER RELATED
TOPICS); AND (3) CLARIFICATION OF OUR IDEAS ON THE
MANDATE FOR THE UN PRESENCE (WE ARE CURRENTLY PREPARING
A DRAFT WHICH WE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE BRITISH).
WHETHER OR NOT WE DECIDE TO RAISE THESE ISSUES WITH
THE PF, AT LEAST THE POLICE AND UN TOPICS ARE ONES WE
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PAGE 04 STATE 107355

WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS IN DEPTH WITH THE UK.

3. ROBINSON UNDERTOOK TO PASS MOOSE'S SUGGESTIONS
OF TOPICS FOR US-UK DISCUSSIONS TO LONDON AND TO
DETERMINE WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR GRAHAM
TO EXTEND HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT FCO
MIGHT BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SOME PRELIMINARY THINKING
ON ISSUES MOOSE HAD RAISED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK. FCO
VIEWS COULD BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY "TO HELP
CUT AWAY SOME OF THE UNDERBRUSH" IN ADVANCE OF GRAHAM'S
VISIT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE107355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDAVIDOW:GFH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780179-0598
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978049/aaaaahdf.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f302eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3066544
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: PLANNING NEXT STEPS WITH THE BRITISH
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f302eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014